

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 2, 1899

June 2nd 1899. My dear Alec,

It was very nice to get your telegram last night as we came home from the theatre. We that is the children, Mr McCurdy, Gilbert Ninnie Kerr, and I went to see Maude Adams in "Juliet". She is certainly the best Juliet that I have seen although I have not seen many. But she has I think hit upon a very good idea of the character, which is that of a young girl of the Gipsy and Helen's ages. She acted much as they do before she meets Romeo, and is so very pretty graceful and full of enchanting little airs and graces that it is no wonder that Romeo loses his heart incontinently when he sees her dancing. She remains the child to the last full of a child's pathetic grief and wonder that life should be so hard and she so unhappy, and ready at the least lifting of the cloud to be a gay happy child once more. Romeo was impossible which increased my displeasure with him for spoiling the poor child's pleasure when she was thoroughly enjoying her first dance. It was quite hit in the theatre, but it might have been so much hotter that one I, id not complain.

Elsie and her friend have had an explanation. He told her that he could not offer her anything, until his position was as good as her own, therefore there could be no engagement, but she understood that he loved her, and he that she cared for him now, but that she was not sure that it was permanent, and it was quite possible that she might see some one else that she liked better, hence they would simply have a good time now, and neither be bound in any way. What do you think of that arrangement! I think if I could get her where she would see other men she would forget him as she has once before, but that at Baddeck she would simply be crazy for him, and her engagement follow. I want to do whatever is best for you all. I could of course go somewhere with the children, and let you go back, but that would be very unsatisfactory in every way because I alone could not give

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her the oppotunities that you can, and I would be very anxious all the time both about you alone there and about the children, whether supposing they met men, that these men were the kind I wanted &c.

I dont at all fancy you alone in the houseboat. Do you want us at Northampton! The children want to go to Mrs Aldrich then she has just returned and invited them at once, and I would rather have all my time here if we are to return with you. Anyway I should not have much satisffection out of you there